

# FOOD PURCHASE REPORT

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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
Marketing  
Service

DATE: November 16, 2007

## USDA CHICKEN NUGGETS AND CHICKEN PATTIES PURCHASE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced plans to purchase chicken nuggets and chicken patties for school lunch and other domestic food nutrition assistance programs. Offers will be invited from the trade for chicken nuggets and chicken patties in the following forms:

Chicken Nuggets (222330) - Frozen cooked chicken nuggets, produced from ready-to-cook chicken and chicken parts, or boneless parts, meat, and skin. Chicken nuggets will be packaged 5 or 10 pounds (2.27 or 4.54 kg) per plastic-film bag to a net weight of 30 pounds (13.61 kg) in each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,300 shipping containers totaling 39,000 pounds (17,690 kg).

Chicken Patties (223030) - Frozen cooked chicken patties, produced from ready-to-cook chicken and chicken parts, or boneless parts, meat, and skin. Chicken patties will be packaged 5 or 10 pounds (2.27 or 4.54 kg) per plastic-film bag to a net weight of 30 pounds (13.61 kg) in each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,300 shipping containers totaling 39,000 pounds (17,690 kg).

Invitation No. 1, inviting offers due by 12 noon, Central Time, Monday, Dec. 3, is being issued in the near future. Acceptances will be announced by midnight, Friday, Dec. 7, for delivery from Jan. 16 to Jan. 31, 2008. Subsequent invitations will be issued inviting offers due the first and third Monday of each month.

All offers must be submitted electronically through the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES) website at <https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe?>. Offers submitted by any means other than DEBES will be considered nonresponsive.

There are some important changes to this year's program. The long-term purchase program has been discontinued; it will, however, be part of the on-going food purchase program. As a reminder, truck seals shall meet the American Society for Testing and Materials Standards, and seals shall be 1/8-inch in diameter, high-security bolts, or equivalent. Food defense plans will be audited by the USDA AMS Grading Branch prior to contract award. Potential contractors will

receive written notification from the Contracting Officer of their eligibility to bid. Contractors may request the Contracting Officer waive the pre-award audit. The contractor/producer must immediately report all complaints received on the commodity to the Contracting Officer. The report must include a plan that addresses control and segregation of all non-conforming products, removal of any USDA markings, and disposition of all non-conforming products. Additionally, in accordance with the Food Safety and Inspection Service regulations, all poultry shall be handled humanely.

All certifications that apply strictly to Poultry Programs will be made annually and are contained in Appendix-1. The certifications will be made one time only for all Poultry Program Announcements for the program year. All certifications, in the Online Representations and Certification Application and Appendix-1, must be completed prior to submitting a bid.

Information regarding these requirements is contained in Announcement PY-330, which is being distributed to the trade. Offerors are urged to review the bid format and product specifications and are cautioned to only offer quantities they can reasonably expect to produce and deliver during the contracted delivery period.

Offerors are urged to carefully read all applicable terms and conditions of USDA-1, as amended, Announcement PY-330, Appendix-1, the Commodity Specification for Chicken Nuggets and Chicken Patties, and Invitation No. 1.

Inquiries may be made by telephoning (202) 720-7693 or addressing the Contracting Officer; USDA/AMS/Poultry Programs, Commodity Procurement Branch STOP 0260; 1400 Independence Ave., SW; Washington, DC 20250. An electronic version of this Food Purchase Report can be obtained through the world wide web via the Commodity Procurement Home Page at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/cp>.

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